million tonnes showing materialisation of 95%. CEA has indicated the requirement of GEB for 1994-95 as 11.7 million tonnes. The total supplies made to GEB Power houses during the period April, 94 to October, 94 were 6.427 million tonnes (Provisional). Coal Companies are geared up to meet in full the coal requirements of Power houses in the country including those located in Gujarat State.

Underground fires in Jharia

721. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether during studies by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) in Hyderabad, the Scientists have apprehended deterioration in underground fires in Bihar's Jharia coalfields, and have warned that the situation in the mining area is alarming and explosive;

(b) whether Jharia mainly caters to the metallurgical needs of the country;

(c) the number of underground and open-cast coal mines in Jharia coalfields; and

(d) what plan Government have drawn up to fight the surface and mine fires in Jharia Coalfields area and the techniques evolved for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The study by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad was undertaken for development of a methodology for thermal mapping on mine fires areas in Jharia coalfields remote sensing technology, Conclusions/recommendations)of the study do not indicate any deterioration in the conditions of mire fires in Jharia coalfield.

(b) While Jharia coalfield is the main source of prime coking coal in the country, above 50% oocoking coal used in the metallurgical sector is produced in other coalfields like East/West Bokaro, Ramgarh, Pench-Kanhan and Makum etc.

(c) The number of mines in Jharia coalfields are as follows:—

	Underground	Open-casts	Mixeds	Total
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) . .	53	12	25	90
Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO) .	2	..	..	2
Tata Iron & Steel Co. (ITISCO) . . .	6	..	..	6
TOTALS ...	61	12	25	98

(d) As a result of efforts made over in the period by Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., out of 70 identified fires, 5 fires have been extinguished and 6 have been contained. 22 projects are under various stages of implementation to deal with Jharia Coalfie fires. For development of long-term plan for dealing with Jharia fires a diagnostic study has been taken up with the World Bank assistance. Work on the study is in progress.